

HB 4932

It is not that the legislation is a bad idea or its intent, what is wrong is the underlying assumption that all sex offenders are the same. It assumes all those on the registry have committed the same crime, when in fact that is not true.

There are those on the registry who do not have a record, nor a conviction, yet they fall under the terms of the current "blanket legislation" pertaining to sex offenders.

In a recent article in the Detroit News dated May 26 there was a cyber survey asking: Do you support Gov. Grandholm's request for a law that would bar sex offenders from being within 1000 feet of schools? 43.48% said no. That is the public speaking. An editorial quoted John LaFond of the University of Missouri-Kansas City who has studied attempts to treat and control sex offenders, told the News, "such proposals as the school zone can be "futile, costly and ineffective gestures to falsely assure the community that they're going to be safe." He goes on in the article to state, "Not all sex offenders pose as equal level of risk."

My son was sentenced under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act (HYTA) in 1997. His record has been expunged, yet he is required to register under the current law.

He would be greatly affected by this legislation. He lives within 1000ft of a school. He bought the home well before this legislation was considered. He works construction. What happens if his company gets a job within 1000ft of a school? Will he have to quit, sell his home and try to start over again? If the intent is to protect our children let's protect them from those who pose a threat, the pedophile or child predator. Not the teenager who used poor judgment. Let's please get away from this "blanket legislation."

Barb

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